

Alexandria Gazette

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NO. 306.

ISAAC EICHBERG'S DRY GOODS STORE.

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

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THURSDAY EVENING, DEC. 27.

Postal Antiquities.

For the earliest dawning of the postal system we must travel back far into the past, and we must look beyond our own island. In every encyclopedia we may read how the word post is supposed to have originated from the Latin postum, placed or fixed; and how posts or stations were placed at intervals along the roads of the Roman empire, at least as early as in the reign of Augustus; at these stations couriers held themselves in readiness to receive dispatches. We must go back still further, and we shall discover very curious arrangements for the conveyance of written and of spoken messages. That ancient people the Chinese, beforehand in everything, are said to have instituted stations for the reception of those bringing news. At these stations beds or couches were prepared, covered with silk and surrounded by rich curtains, "fit even for a king," should the herald of news be a royal personage. Then, again, the ancients were not without their contrivances for the secret conveyance of intelligence.

Herodotus speaks of the messages written on the shaven heads of slaves whose journeys were delayed until the hair had grown sufficiently to hide the mysterious words which were thus securely veiled until the friend to whom they were addressed unveiled them with his sword razor. Josephus tells us of men disguised as animals, and bearing about them, hidden under the leopard's skin, or the lion's mane, some dread secret written by a friend or a master. Then, again, he speaks of letters inclosed in sarcophagi with the embalmed dead; and of messages, fearful or perchance friendly in import, being engraven on bullets, which anxiously waited for, were slung into besieged cities. And we read of the more ingenious contrivances of mystic writing, such as that employed by Julius Caesar, who arranged a cipher most effectual for secrecy. The ancient custom of stations, or posts, bore but a slight resemblance to the postal arrangements of our own times, seeing that they were available only for state purposes, and were not intended to serve for private correspondence; yet, inasmuch as they were suggestive to high and low, we may regard them as the forerunners of the extensive postal institutions from which now we benefit.

England waited long for her regular postal system, which is of comparatively recent date, although as early as the thirteenth century the necessity of it plainly appeared from the various inventions resorted to by rich and poor. For example, persons of wealth and importance would keep one household official called a nuncio, or messenger, whose sole duty was the conveyance of letters; while their poorer neighbors would intrust written communications to travelling peddlers, sea captains, journeymen, who made stated and periodic journeys; merchants would occasionally speculate by undertaking public letters to send to their respective destinations, all letters brought to them, provided the expenses of transmission were paid beforehand; and many of the nobility instituted stations or posts for their own families, or for districts in which they were especially interested.—English Paper.

SPENCER'S BEAUTIFUL WIFE.—Among the ladies recently added to society none create more interest than Mrs. Spencer, wife of the Alabama Senator. As seen from the gallery of the Senate, where she is a frequent attendant, she is a very pretty woman, of a dark, sallow complexion, thin lips, fine teeth, and a small, straight nose. Her chief beauty lies in her eyes—large, dark and expressive, with heavy lashes and arched brows. A broad brimmed black hat forms a shadowy halo round her face, and a mulberry colored suit throws a slight color into her cheeks. Some say she is a Cuban by birth, and from her native island gained the tropical beauty that a northern climate is dispelling; others, that she is from the South, with Spanish ancestors. As an actress belonging to Daly's Fifth Avenue Theatre she played her parts well, but never rose to great heights, nor gave promise of any remarkable talents. The susceptible Senator came, saw, was conquered, and on the shortest notice bore her off on a wedding tour to Deadwood, over which portion of the country the lady went into raptures, and the Senator interested himself in mines, lands and ranches. Those who saw the gentleman when he was first out there in the early spring described him as the most thorough Black Hunter out there. He entered thoroughly into the life and spirit of the place, wore hickory shirts, slouch hat and top boots, carried a brace of revolvers, and was in his saddle all day. Speculations among those sapient miners were that, after his present term in the Senate, and when the Black Hills has been made into a Territory of its own by reason of his interests there, he would enter into political prominence and again enter the Senatorial arena, representing the great Northwest.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

WHY SIMON CAME TO WASHINGTON.—Simon Cameron was here last week, but not on political business. He came quietly, saw only a few persons, and, but for an accidental meeting, nobody outside a select circle would have known of his visit. His business was entirely personal. The hearing in the celebrated case of Oliver vs. Cameron was set for this term of court, but for reasons best known to defendant he sought and obtained a postponement. It seems that all efforts to effect a compromise with the widow Oliver have failed, because she is not to be bought off cheaply. She demands a good round sum. Cameron objected to the price demanded and meant to fight it out, but Don Cameron does not want the scandal of a trial in the suit must cause if it reaches a trial in the courts, so Simon journeyed here to consult his lawyer as to what could be done toward securing better terms than the widow's lawyers have been demanding. I understand that the result was not satisfactory, and that instead of lowering their demands the counsel of Mrs. Oliver intimated that they would increase them if further delays were interposed.—Cor. New York Sun.

JNO. A. FIELD,
Wholesale and Retail Dealer in
Smoking and Chewing Tobacco,

CIGARS, PIPES, &c.
Flood's, Bob White, Winfree & Lloyd's
Fried's, Virginia, Hiawatha and other brands
at factory prices. Always keeps a large stock
in store. Call and see him, at No. 71 King st.,
before you buy elsewhere. feb 10

CHEAP MUSIC

I propose closing out my stock of SHEET
MUSIC and now offer it AT ONE THIRD
THE REGULAR PRICE. It consists mainly
of choice Standard Music, suitable for Parlor,
Concert or School Room, Vocal and Instru-
mental. Any music not in store will be ordered, and a
deduction of one fifth will be made from pub-
lisher's prices. dec 17-301m JOHN H. PARROTT.

READ

I. EICHBERG'S

LOOK

THE HOLIDAYS CLOSE

AT HAND.

We are fully prepared to offer to our numerous friends and customers the most complete stock of

DRY GOODS

ever offered before in Alexandria.

Our stock has been entirely replenished and is all fresh and new, bought at the lowest net cash bottom prices, and will be sold at the smallest profit.

Having done an exceedingly

satisfactory business, we wish

to close the year with as small

a stock as possible, and hence

have concluded from this day

to run off our entire stock at

ASTONISHINGLY LOW

PRICES.

All our goods are marked in

plain selling figures, and we

would respectfully call the at-

tention of all lovers of a good

and genuine article at a cheap

price to give us a call and ex-

amine our immense stock.

I. EICHBERG,

(Successor to Slaymaker Co.)

AND

DOMESTICS

AT

BOTTOM PRICES.

CALL

SPECIAL ADVERTISE-

MENT.

GREATEST AND MOST

ATTRACTIVE

SALE OF THE SEASON.

Large and splendid variety of

Cloaks and Shawls,

DRESS GOODS,

HOLIDAY GOODS,

GLOVES,

HANDKERCHIEFS,

HOUSEFURNISHING

GOODS,

TABLE AND

PIANO COVERS,

MEN'S AND

BOY'S WEAR,

CARPETS,

OIL CLOTHS,

RUGS,

MATS

CRUMB

CLOTHS,

And a full line and general

stock of

DRY GOODS

AND

DOMESTICS

AT

BOTTOM PRICES.

I. EICHBERG,

(Successor to Slaymaker Co.)

AND

DOMESTICS

AT

BOTTOM PRICES.

BUY

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

First in the field to offer to my patrons

HOLIDAY GOODS!

For a holiday present nothing is more useful than a nice Overcoat or a good Suit of Clothes.

OVERCOATS FROM \$3 TO \$25 (Chinchilla, Beaver and Cloth, of all styles and colors.)

SUITS TO FIT A THREE YEAR OLD CHILD TO A MAN WEIGHING 300 POUNDS.

CALL AND SEE THEM.

My stock of

GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS.

TRUNKS VALISES.

HATS, CAPS, &c.,

is complete.

MY SIX DOLLAR SUIT

Cannot be excelled this side of Philadelphia.

TO MY FRIENDS AND PATRONS—

All I ask is a visit to my Clothing Emporium,

and if I do not satisfy you in what I have said

I ask you not to buy. I hope my former career

of business transaction will be sufficient for the

future.

HENRY STRAUSS,

NO. 56 KING STREET—

Opposite Market alley.

BOOTS AND SHOES!

PREPARE YOURSELVES,

FOR THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING!

Now is your time, for!

HENRY STRAUSS

is selling at his!

BOOT AND SHOE EMPORIUM,

66 KING STREET!

Boots and Shoes at prices that will dazzle your eyes.

BOOTS FROM \$1.50 UP TO \$6.

A Baltimore Home Made Boot \$3.87.

Ladies' Shoes from 75c up to \$2.50.

Ladies' Foxed Button \$1.62. This Boot can-

not be equalled in this city.

Misses' and Children's Shoes at the lowest

prices.

For a Christmas present to your wife, hus-

band, mother, father, sister, brother, or anyone,

call on HENRY STRAUSS, 66 King street,

and get a pair of his

BEST HOLIDAY SHOES.

P. S.—Sole agent for the WALKER

SADDLE SEAM BOOT. This boot will be

guaranteed for its fit and wear.

Call and examine them. dec 4

FANCY GOODS.

J. FERGUSON & BROTHER

WE have opened our stock of GOODS FOR

THE FALL SEASON, consisting in part of—

Ladies', Gents' and Children's Merino Un-

derwear and Hosiery.

Dress Trimmings, in Silk and Worsted

Frings, Gallons, Buttons, &c.

Toilet Articles—Hair, Tooth and Nail Brushes,

Neck Puffs, Sile and High Combs, Soaps and

Perfumery.

Ladies' Collars, Cuffs, Ruchings, Ruffings,

Ties, Lace Scarfs, Linen and Silk Handker-

chiefs and Kid Gloves.

Worsted, German-town Wool, Shetland

Wool and Ploss, Saxony and German Knitting

Yarns, in all colors, and Embroidery Canvases.

HOOP SKIRTS & BUSTLES.

All styles on hand and made to order at short

notice.

We have also a large stock of Hair Braids,

Curis, Puffs, &c., to which we invite your at-

tention. FERGUSON & BRO.,

dec 3 56 King street.

NOTICE.

I have just returned from the North with a

full line of the following goods: Ladies' and

Children's Hosiery from 12 1/2 to 50c a pair; Kid

Gloves from 75c to \$1.75 per pair; Handker-

chiefs at all prices; Zephyr Worsted, white 10c,

colored 12c per oz; Ladies' Embroidered Col-

ored 15c; a large line of Lace Collars for chil-

dren; Corsets from 50c up; Yarn, Navy Blue,

Red, Brown, and all the plain colors; Merino

Vests and Pants of all sizes; Card Board Silver

Paper Pictures in great variety; Motto Pocket

Books; Steel Pens, new style; Lace and Silk

Scarfs; Crepe Laces; all kinds of Ruffing very

low; Buttons, Fringes and Black Velvet on the

bias; also Velvet Ribbons and everything in my

line as low as can be sold in this or any other

city. Call and see for yourselves at

C. C. BERRY'S, 72 King st.

Agent for SINGER'S SEWING MACHINES.

sep 24

DRY GOODS.

SELLING OUT! SELLING OUT!

HURRY TO

S. LINDHEIMER'S,

76 KING STREET,

FOR YOUR LAST AND EXCELLENT

CHANCE FOR BARGAINS.

I am positively selling out my entire stock of

DRY GOODS

WITHOUT REGARD TO COST,

In order to wind up that part of my business.

BLANKETS, FLANNELS, all kinds of

CLOTHES, including the best of BEAVER

CLOTH, FURS for LADIES and CHILD-

REN, &c., &c., ALMOST GIVEN AWAY.

Hurry up for bargains.

S. LINDHEIMER,

dec 1-1m 86 King street.

CARPETS, OIL CLOTHS,

RUGS,

AND CRUMB CLOTHS,

IN GREAT VARIETY AND AT LOW

PRICES AT

Pretzfelder & Company's

nov 12 144 KING STREET.

ICE CREAM, &c.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

I wish to notify my friends and the public

generally that I have moved from my place of

business on King street to No. 16 N. St. Asaph

street, where I will receive orders for

ICE CREAM,

and supply families at the following low prices:

Ice Cream, \$1.20 per gallon

Ice Cream, 50c five gallons

Custard, 1.00 per gallon

Water Ice, 1.00 per gallon

I will keep always on hand a variety of Phila-

delphia Taffies, Bon-bons, Cream work of all

flavors, fine and common confections, Apples,

Oranges, Lemons, &c. Also a Milk Depot

where fresh milk can be had at all times.

J. S. FORCE,

No. 16 N. St. Asaph st.

MEDICINAL.

BUTLER'S BALSAMIC MIXTURE, FOR

THIRTY YEARS KNOWN AS THE IN-

FALLIBLE REMEDY.

Price one dollar per bottle. feb 28-1y

A N ELEGANT BRASS CAGE for \$1.00 at

Mc KAN & UHLER'S.

dec 11

H. B. HOOMES,

No. 109 King street,

Alexandria, Va.

dec 18

NEW SUGARS received to-day, Dec. 12, by

dec 14 R. W. AVERY, 226 King st.